

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS UNDER ARREST

The Conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 28 September to 2 October 1990. It was convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in response to a request from the Commission on Human Rights.

The Conference was attended by representatives of 108 States, 12 international organizations and 12 non-governmental organizations.

The Conference adopted the International Covenant on the Protection of Persons Under Arrest, which entered into force on 15 December 1991. The Covenant is the first international instrument to deal specifically with the rights of persons under arrest.

The Covenant sets out the minimum standards for the treatment of persons under arrest, including the right to a fair trial, the right to be treated with humanity and the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It also sets out the minimum standards for the conditions of detention.

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